COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE AUGMENTS SECURITY WITH FACIAL RECOGNITION

Starting next month, Community Synagogue of Rye will beef up security by stationing Jewish grandmothers at the entrance of the building. Their mission: to recognize the faces of everyone coming in.

“I know you!” one grandmother shouted on a recent beta test. “You went to camp with my granddaughter’s best friend’s cousin, right?”

“Y-y-yes,” the stunned congregant replied.

“The Grandparent Early Warning System (GEWS) has been found to be quite proficient at making connections to people walking into the building.

“Is your son still single? Have I got a girl for him,” one grandma said as a woman tried to pass her by.

“It’s a great system,” said board President Sue Zeitlin as she looked on. “Who better than grandparents to say out loud things the rest of us might only think?”

Grandfathers are also valuable in the new project.

“Hey!” a grandfather called out on the test day. “I remember you—I coached you in Little League in 1967. Are you still choking up on the bat?”

Beta testing revealed some kinks, which are being ironed out. A bar mitzvah guest ran away in tears when he realized all the connections he had failed to make by opting not to go to Jewish summer camp. And one Nana reported that her cane was bent after she used it to chase away someone who could not name a single person they knew in common.

Zeitlin said she was proud to be the first in the nation to initiate the program, which is being watched by Silicon Valley in complete and utter confusion and dismay. If all goes as planned, she expects to install Phase II in 2021, which will involve a Jewish Geography System (JGS). This will be similar to a GPS system, but really completely different. After the initial Bubbe or Zadie match is made, another grandparent will follow up by asking, “Where did you grow up? What shul did you belong to? Where did you go to camp? Where did you go to college? Graduate school? Do you know...?” It should change the entire experience of walking into CSR, Zeitlin said.

Some have wondered whether facial recognition will raise privacy issues. Rabbi Gropper shrugged. “Not really,” he said. “What Jew hasn’t been asked a nosy question by a well-meaning bubbe?”

Continued… on Page 3
Community Synagogue of Rye is a caring Jewish community that seeks to add meaning and purpose to your life. Inspired by Jewish teachings and traditions, we seek to be a center for spiritual transformation; to foster the creation of sacred relationships; and to give people the tools and resources to be God’s partner in healing the world.

This vision is guided by our commitment to the Jewish values of:

- Worship (T’filah)
- Lifelong Learning (Talmud Torah)
- Community (Kehilah)
- Loving Kindness (Hesed)
- Repairing the World (Tikkun Olam)
- Love of Israel (Ahavat Yisrael)

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Rabbi Emeritus .............................. Robert A. Rothman
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Mazel Tov
Mazel Tov to Anne and Rainer Lenzin on the birth of their twin daughters Lillian and Lena Lenzin

Mazel Tov to Barbara Goodstein & Dennis Wolf in celebration of the birth of Jacob Asher Mckenna, grandson of Barbara Goodstein

Condolences

When cherished ties are broken, our burden of sadness is made lighter by the sympathy and comfort of friends.

H. Elliot Wales, father of David Wales, father-in-law of Kira Wales, grandfather of Michael, Jennifer, and Lindsey Wales

Sherri Atkins, sister-in-law of Andi Hessekiel

Melanie Rose Chaite, granddaughter of Myrna Wendlinger Barzelatto

Steve Bloom, father of Jodie Bloom Goldstein, husband of Dale Bloom
**New Wrist Device Helps Jews Track Mitzvot**

Silicon Valley has reached the synagogue’s Judaica shop with the arrival of the *Mitzvahbit*, a tracking device that Jewishizes the Fitbit concept. Strap it onto your wrist and microprocessors will track your *mitzvot*. Did you help an old lady across the street this morning? The wrist band will record it! Did you kindle the Shabbat candles last Friday night? The *Mitzvahbit* will automatically take note, and at the end of the day, you can see just how many *mitzvot* you carried out.

Best of all, the *Mitzvahbit*, which comes with a fashionable, Zionist blue wrist band, will remind you if you fall short of your daily do-gooder goals. A slight buzz on your wrist will prompt you to get off your *tuches* and do a *mitzvah*. A special *Yom Kippur* feature will analyze your progress toward Book-of-Life Inscription. (It can also be programmed to count sins, should you find that necessary.)

Rabbi Gropper already has one. “We live in a modern world,” he said in explaining the purchase, “but we are an ancient people. Why not use technology to help us accomplish the commandments that were laid out by our ancestors thousands of years ago?” Then, as he glanced at his wrist, he added, “I’ve already done 1,300 *mitzvot* today!”

The Judaica Shop is currently selling the *Mitzvahbit* at a discounted price of $1,818 (normally $3,600). This is a limited time offer, so don’t miss out!

**Hilarity continued… on Page 5**
As long as there have been Jews, there have been two unwavering constants: antisemitism and jokes about antisemitism.

Like the one told about the assassination of Czar Alexander of Russia in 1881, when a government official approaches a rabbi and growls, “I assume you know who was behind it.”

The rabbi replies, “I have no idea, but I’m sure the government will blame the Jews and the chimney sweeps.”

Confused, the official asks, “Why the chimney sweeps?”

“Why the Jews?” the rabbi responds.

We all know that antisemitism is on the rise. There are the physical attacks: Pittsburgh, Poway, Jersey City, Monsey, Crown Heights; not to mention the drawn swastikas, emboldened white supremacists on the right and anti-Zionist rhetoric on the left. (Google, “ADL Tracker of Anti-Semitic Incidents” to learn more). Antisemitism is also becoming an organizing principle in society, a way for some groups to explain the increasing economic and societal stresses we face. We have seen a revival of different societies explaining the complexity of the world by blaming Judaism or Jews—even in societies where few to no Jews live today. For example, though few Jews live in Hungary or Poland today, both countries are experiencing a rise in nationalism coupled with a rise in antisemitic rhetoric, according to a recent New Yorker article. So why tell a joke?

According to comedian Elon Gold, an in-demand comic with a Netflix special and regular gigs on the late-night talk shows, “It’s like what Mel Brooks said about his ‘Springtime for Hitler’: Humor is my greatest weapon. Our revenge is with jokes, and not just against the Nazis of old, but sadly current-day new-Nazis. The only way I can fight them is by mocking them and exposing the ignorance of their bigotry.”

Since the time of Esther and Mordechai, to the stories of Chelm and onto Vaudeville, laughter has helped us cope against eons of persecution (and survival), a way of shrugging off a cultural assault far disproportionate to our tiny population, or a way of processing our insecurity as an oppressed minority group. This is not to say that we should not remain vigilant in the face of anti-Jewish rhetoric or anti-Jewish violence, but a good joke now and again can’t hurt. It’s gotten us through much worse.

This edition of our “Community News,” is designed to do just that. With our farce cover (many thanks to Andi & David Hessekiel), the odd cartoon and Jewish jokes sprinkled throughout, we hope that in this season of Purim, you are able to have a bit of a laugh. In these trying times, we all need it.

And we hope you come to celebrate Purim with us this year. The Bible Players will be joining us on Wednesday March 11 (see p. 13 for more details), both in our CJL and later, for an adult Purim celebration. Learn more about them at thebibleplayers.com.

So, in these trying times—where a good joke or two is what we need, I leave you with this old standby, to shield against antisemitic stereotypes by exploiting them first:

Rabbi Altmann and his secretary were sitting in a coffeehouse in Berlin in 1935. “Herr Altmann,” said his secretary, “I notice you’re reading Der Stürmer! I can’t understand why. A Nazi libel sheet! Are you some kind of masochist, or, God forbid, a self-hating Jew”

“Oh the contrary, Frau Epstein. When I used to read the Jewish papers, all I learned about were pogroms, riots in Palestine, and assimilation in America. But now that I read Der Stürmer, I see so much more: that the Jews control all the banks, that we dominate in the arts, and that we’re on the verge of taking over the entire world. You know—it makes me feel a whole lot better!”

I hope that you feel a little better and that this month, where we celebrate Purim (& our daughter Noa’s bat mitzvah on March 21), you find a way to laugh a little. As the Yiddish proverb reminds us: “What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul.”

Wishing you a freilich and joyful Purim,

Rabbi Daniel Gropper
The Tzedek Council has gotten off to a great start for 2020. Our efforts toward repairing the world have focused on support of vital legislation and direct efforts to help those in need. Here is a snapshot of what is underway.

Community Synagogue of Rye will be joining congregations across New York State through the Religious Action Committee (RAC) of New York to rally behind the Protect the Courts Act. This proposed legislation will ensure that every immigrant New Yorker can report crimes or serve as witnesses through our courts without fear of being targeted and arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). We’re planning a trip to Albany on March 16—all are welcome!

On a more local level, we joined a few Westchester reform synagogues in January to meet with County Executive George Latimer and staff to learn how the local Jewish reform community can partner with county government in furthering social justice programs and initiatives. Areas of focus for Westchester County this year include affordable housing, financial literacy, economic development, environmental sustainability and reducing hate crimes. Join us as we explore opportunities across these areas.

Our CSR “Social Action Shabbat” with special guest Rabbi Soffin, a life-long social activist and head of Jewish Helping Hands, was inspiring. Rabbi Soffin shared his lifetime experiences addressing the needs of the poor and vulnerable, both locally and across the globe. Hearing about his “hands-on, ground level” approach gave us ideas and concepts we can adopt as a congregation to heighten our collective impact.

Due to the success of our Mitzvah Day, we are planning to hold another in the Spring—save the date for April 18 at 11 am to participate in multiple mitzvah opportunities.

Wishing you and your families a Chag Sameach—a happy and joyous Purim!

Cantor Melanie Cooperman
Jackie Kabot
Karen Lipson

JEWISH YOGA PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH NEW TWIST

The Community Synagogue Jewish Yoga program will become “even more Jewish in 2020,” according to Cantor Melanie Cooperman and certified yoga instructors Naomi Norman and Shari Balaish.

“We have always tried to connect our Jewish yoga practice to Jewish values, but now we are going to take it one step farther by learning new Jewish-only asanas, or poses, in future classes,” Cooperman said. Some of the poses that Naomi and Shari will share with participants include:

- **The Hamantaschen**: This move is very similar to the traditional triangle pose, except that it has a poppy-seed filling.
- **The Plotz**: In this pose, you stand with your toes pointing outward, your knees slightly bent and your elbows in a W shape, as if to say, “WHAAAT?”
- **The Kvell**: Usually done in concert with The Plotz, in this pose you stand with feet together, and inhale deeply while placing clasped hands over your heart and gazing skyward.
- **The Mezuzah**: Stand with both feet on the ground, hands at your side. Lean to the right. This pose is best practiced in a doorway.
- **The Machatunum**: This challenging pose asks you to stand on one leg while extending your other leg behind you. You must hold this pose for as many minutes as it takes for you to come up with something nice to say about your daughter’s husband’s parents.
- **The Mohel**: Start with feet hip-width apart. Bend at the waist while squinting and then make quick chopping movements with your right hand. After completing the move, accept only cash.
- **The Tchochke**: Lay on your back, clasping your knees to your chest, trying to make yourself into a very small shape. This pose should be practiced on a coffee table.
- **The Balabusta**: This pose, best practiced while wearing an apron, involves holding out your arms as if carrying a shissel of brisket, but never complaining about how many hours it took you to make it.
- **The Matzah**: Lay on a mat, making your body very flat. Do not rise.
- **The Nebbish**: Lay on your back. Try to stand up, but realize that you cannot.
We all enjoy a good laugh. Studies show that laughter has health benefits, including improving the immune system, relieving pain and reducing stress. The Torah tells us that Sarah, the matriarch of the Jewish people, laughed when told she’d give birth in her old age. (Frankly, I don’t know if I would laugh or cry if I heard that news.) But since that moment, it seems, Jews have continued laughing—at themselves and their predicaments, at each other, even at God. Laughter has helped Jews get through difficult times over the years.

During Purim, we celebrate our survival. We celebrate Esther’s courage to speak on behalf of her people and Mordecai’s foresight to see where the world was heading. We dance, sing and laugh together to celebrate the perseverance of the Jewish people. Our Purim celebrations will be special this year, with the Bible Players performing both for families during religious school and for adults in the evening, and a special tea party event for women on International Women’s Day. The tea will include a special tribute to Mildred Weissman on her 100th birthday from the editor-in-chief of Lilith Magazine, Susan Weidman Schneider.

In addition to laughing, just being a part of our synagogue is good for your health. CSR provides a supportive home for your mind, spirit and even your body. Whatever you choose to attend, whether it’s services, yoga, movie night, book club or an educational program, you will find it to be nourishing. Our board has spent time this year delving into what it means to be engaged. We discussed that engagement is an ongoing process through which we build meaningful, authentic, and collaborative relationships for the purpose of pursuing a shared Jewish vision. Engagement can also be defined as a state of belonging and personal commitment that arises organically from shared purpose, influence, trust, mutual learning and collective responsibility. We are working to find ways for our CSR members to become more engaged so that we maintain the health of our congregation.

Look out for more events that interest you. Always know that our synagogue is here for us when we need to cry, when we need to laugh, and everything in between. And when you walk into the building, take a look at the new mezuzah, which was donated by our executive committee. It was made in Israel and is a modern rendition of the birkat kohanim, the priestly benediction. It is a beautiful way to be welcomed into our spiritual home.

Susan Zeitlin, CSR President

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE AND BAGEL BREAKFAST TO BE HELD AT COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE

Community Synagogue has been selected as the site for a presidential debate and bagel breakfast next month, owing to the record number of Jews seeking the presidential nomination (two.)

Asked why a debate with bagels, Executive Director Glynis Conyer said, “Most people would rather stay home than watch a debate. But when free bagels are involved, we can expect a crowd.”

“Bloomberg has promised to bring 50,000 bagels AND bialys from Lenny’s while Sanders will contribute cream cheese made directly from Vermont cows. “We’re going to have quite a spread,” Conyer said.

Several other candidates are expected to attend whether they are Jewish or not because, after all, you don’t have to be Jewish to love a bagel and a schmear.

This year’s Purim content was created with love and mirth by Andi Atkins Hessekiel and David Hessekiel with special assistance (and yoga jokes) from Andi’s nieces Jessica Atkins Hernandez and Rachel Atkins Etkin. Special thanks also to Sophie Hessekiel for her input.
Every other month, CSR’s Book Club facilitates interesting discussions as we explore the layers of a novel while connecting them to relevant and relatable Jewish texts.

**CSR Book Club**

**American Dirt**

By Jeanine Cummins

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 pm

Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

American Dirt will leave readers utterly changed. It is a literary achievement filled with poignancy, drama, and humanity on every page. It is one of the most important books for our times.

**Everyone is welcome! Interested in attending?**

Please contact clergyassistant@comsynrye.org.

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**CSR Film Class**

Every other month, Cantor Melanie Cooperman and Allan Staples will screen a Jewish film.

**Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 pm**

Congregant Julie Schuster will host a special screening of Director Brad Rothschild’s new documentary, They Ain’t Ready for Me. Brad and star Tamar Manasseh will be in house for a Q&A session after the movie has finished.

They Ain’t Ready For Me is the story of Tamar Manasseh, the black rabbinical student who leads the fight against gun violence on the south side of Chicago. Tamar’s identity and personality combine to make her a force to be reckoned with.

Everyone is welcome!

Please contact clergyassistant@comsynrye.org to let us know if you will be joining us.

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**Scholar-in-Residence**

**Save the Date—April 3-4**

**Rabbi Myriam Klotz**

Rabbi Myriam Klotz is director of the Spirituality Initiative for Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR)/New York, and has been faculty director of yoga and embodied spiritual practices at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality for 14 years. Myriam is co-director of the Bekhol Levavkah Jewish Spiritual Director training program at HUC-JIR/New York, and co-directed the Yoga and Jewish Spirituality Teacher Training program at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Connecticut. She leads Jewish yoga and spiritual direction retreats, sessions, and trainings at synagogues, seminaries, and retreat centers nationally. Her recordings include In All Your Ways Know God: Beginning Yoga On and Off the Mat.
On March 20-21, 2020, hundreds of synagogues and thousands of individuals across the United States will be raising their voices in support of refugees and asylum seekers during the second National Refugee Shabbat organized by HIAS.

This special Shabbat has even gone international with communities in Canada, Europe, and around the world taking part!

https://www.hias.org/take-action-national-refugee-shabbat
When I was a child, I remember sitting for hours with my sister, each of us with long pieces of yarn tied to our big toes. We would weave and braid the yarn into bracelets, necklaces, wind chimes and streamers that flew from our bicycle handles. We applied objects such as shells, bird feathers and anything else we could find for ornamentation. There was no “kit” or “how-to” instructions. We just figured it out for ourselves, working together.

Experts in early childhood education emphasize the importance of providing opportunities for children to play and create on their own. These simple experiences have a lasting impact on a child’s physical, cognitive and even emotional development. The ECC is working on multiple ways to incorporate these types of activities. Here, I’d like to highlight weaving.

Weaving on a classroom loom like the one pictured here in Mrs. Newman’s Pre-K class, brings children together in a collaborative learning activity. Weaving teaches children many developmental skills. As they weave (working from left to right and right to left), children practice early reading and math skills simply by counting rows and recognizing and creating patterns. Physically, weaving encourages children to coordinate their eyes, hands and minds. It helps develop eye-hand coordination because it encourages children to use the visual information received to coordinate the movement of the hands. It’s common to see children really concentrating when they weave and there is often silence as they carefully move the material between the rods.

Last but not least, weaving appeals to our innate human desire to experience patterns and rhythm. Humans are pattern-seekers. Weaving helps us slow down and enjoy the rhythm and pattern of repetitive motion as we weave in and out, over and under, around and through a series of warp threads. Weaving can even reduce stress and provides a positive community activity where children work together.

Eye-hand coordination and focus.

A sensory rich display of colors and textures.

Mrs. Hanson’s class used sticks and yarn to make a tree for Tu’Bishvat.

LGBTQ Jews and allies of all ages
Come experience a variety of activities for your seder!
Book your ticket at bit.ly/pridepassover

Sunday, March 22 • 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
Scarsdale Tremont Synagogue • Scarsdale, NY
$5 per person/$10 per party of 2 or more
Who knew learning could be so much fun? From exploring modern conversational Hebrew, to learning about Jewish values and sportsmanship, to investigating Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jewry, to celebrating holidays together, CJL learners are actively engaged in joyous Jewish learning.

Teen Madrichim (guides)
A cornerstone of the CJL program is the 27 incredible teen madrichim who assist in our K-6th grade classes. Here, our 5th graders enjoy music led by 12th grader Francesca Valsania and a discussion led by 10th grader Zack Taub.

RAC—Teens to DC
Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement & Informal Learning • Yfarber@comsynrye.org

Picture this: 15 high school sophomores from Westchester, who have never met with their representatives in Washington D.C. before, spend a weekend learning, writing, and preparing to teach about the issues that matter most to them. This is exactly what happens when our teens go to the Religious Action Center (RAC)’s L’taken Seminar in D.C. every winter.

This trip would not be possible without the generous support of the Reform Jewish Commitment Fund of Community Synagogue of Rye. The assistance from the RJC Fund means, in addition to the subsidies, we are able to offer all participants a chance to attend. No teen has to be turned away from this trip due to finances.

The L’taken Weekends in D.C. bring teens together from across the country to learn about current issues in our society and prepare them to speak to their representatives in Congress. Going into the weekend, the teens are often excited about traveling with their friends and getting to meet other Jewish teens. When we get on the train heading back to Westchester, they feel a sense of pride for the work they have done and a desire to continue working for social justice. This year, our amazing group of 10th graders, composed of teens from a variety of school districts, lobbied for reproductive rights, economic justice, gun violence prevention and mental health to staffers from the offices of Senator Gillibrand, Congresswoman Lowey and Congressman Engel.
OUR B’NEI MITZVAH

Sam Sharko

My name is Sam Sharko and I will be called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on March 7. I am in seventh grade at Rippowam Cisqua School in Bedford, NY. My parents are Emily and John Sharko and I have an older sister, Sophie. I enjoy basketball, lacrosse, skiing, wakeboarding and spending time with my friends and family. I spend the summer at Camp Cedar in Casco, Maine. My Torah portion is Ki Tisa from the Book of Exodus. It takes place right after the Jews are freed from slavery and are standing at the base of Mount Sinai waiting for Moses to return. The Israelites become impatient and give up on Moses because he was on top of the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights. For my mitzvah project I volunteered with Feeding Westchester, an organization that helps provide food to those who need it across Westchester. I have found this meaningful and enlightening; I was surprised to realize that people just a couple miles from my house don’t have access to food. I hope to continue volunteering with Feeding Westchester after my bar mitzvah.

Noa Gropper

My name is Noa Gropper. My bat mitzvah is on March 21. I am in seventh grade at Louis M. Klein middle school. My parents are Tamara and Daniel Gropper and I have two older brothers, Elijah and Shai. I love to dance, act, and sing. My Torah portion is Vayak’heil P’kudei from the Book of Exodus. In my section of this portion, we get a very detailed and specific description of how the Mishkan was built, as well as one surprising detail that mentions the women who worked at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. This text reinforced my belief that women can have important roles in life. For my mitzvah project, I am collecting new socks and underwear to donate to the Sharing Shelf, and I went on a Midnight Run with the CSR teens.

TAMARA AND DANIEL GROPPER INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH THEM AS

Noa Yael

IS CALLED TO THE TORAH AS A BAT MITZVAH

PARASHAT VAYAK’HEIL P’KUDEI

21 MARCH 2020 - 25 ADAR 5780

AT ELEVEN FIFTEEN IN THE MORNING COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE

200 FOREST AVENUE • RYE, NY

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

DONATE New Socks and Underwear (especially teenage boys) here for Noa Gropper’s bat mitzvah project.
Please bag items and place them in the dedicated box in the synagogue lobby.

The Sharing Shelf seeks donations of clothing for infants, children and teens. All sizes, from newborn through adult XXL are accepted but sizes 3T-14 for boys and girls as well as casual clothing for teen boys is critically needed.

CLOTHING SHOULD BE IN CLEAN, WEARABLE CONDITION FREE OF RIPS, STAINS AND TEARS READY FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.
If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Carrie Nagel at carrienagel1203@gmail.com
Who Do You Want to Be?
with Rabbi Daniel Gropper

Select Thursdays at 10:00

Using the humane, ethically responsible, spiritually sensitive and inspiring Social Justice Commentary of Pirke Avot written by Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, we will explore how we might become better people even as we repair a broken world. As Ruth Messenger writes about it, “The author makes it clear that we must care about and pay keen attention, first, to knowing ourselves and, then, to developing our relationships with others and with God, because these are essential to our being able to make a difference in the world.”

SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment)
Brenda Wilkin • SAJE@comsynrye.org

Monday, March 2
Elaine Lerner will lead a discussion entitled: Let Me Tell You Something You Might Not Know About Me. This is an opportunity for us to share a story, happening or a unique life experience that happened to you, your family or a friend.

Thursday, March 5
Assemblyman Steven Otis represents the 91st Assembly District in Westchester County, which includes the communities of Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Port Chester, Rye and Rye Brook. He will bring to SAJE updates on recent legislations and its importance to our communities and seniors.

Monday, March 9
Karen Schwartz and Anne Bergman from Geriatric Care Consultants, LLC, will present, “Shall We Dance? Your Partners in Aging: An Introduction to Geriatric Care Management.” Geriatric Care Consultants services Westchester County and lower Fairfield County with Aging Life Care professionals who serve as guides, advocates, and resources for older adults and families caring for aging relatives.

Thursday, March 12
Jeff Kohn, owner of The Kneaded Bread (and CSR member), will share stories of this beloved bakery and community hub. Learn about Jeff and his wife Jennifer’s passion and the hard work that brings this successful business to our neighborhood.

Monday, March 16
Distinguished scientists from The Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, a research unit of Columbia University will bring us important and current information on the constant flux of the earth; such as climate change, earthquakes, extreme weather, ocean circulation and melting ice sheets.

Thursday, March 19 (offsite)
The Bruce Museum, 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich, CT. Admission is $12 person. Tour begins at 11 am.
Come and enjoy a docent-led tour by CSR member Arthur Stempleman. The exhibit is On the Edge of the World: Masterworks by Laurits Andersen Ring from SMK—the National Gallery of Denmark. The Bruce Museum is the only venue for this exhibit on the East Coast. Lunch will be severed in the workshop directly after the tour.

Monday, March 23
Regina Melly, of Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester, will offer an “Introduction to Homecare Services.” She will provide an overview of different options available for individuals living at home.

Thursday, March 26
Dr. David P Rosenzweig, DPM, will present information about approaches to podiatric medicine including: radiology, neurosensory nerve testing and ultrasound services, including advanced medical nonsurgical and surgical care of the foot and ankle.

Monday, March 30
Yael Farber, Director of Youth Engagement at CSR, will provide updates on the trip to Washington D.C. for the Religious Action Center’s L’taken Seminar and the Civil Rights Journey to Memphis.

MAH JONGG
Players of all levels are welcome, including beginners. The cost to attend is $5 for members/non members, which supports Sisterhood initiatives. RSVP with your level of play to Janet Meyers at Janet@SHMeyers.com.

Thursday, March 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm
Canasta players are most welcome!

First Friday Torah Study
MARCH 6, 7:00 AM—Offsite, Le Pain Quotidien
The monthly Torah study sessions are designed to allow working members of the synagogue to squeeze in some Torah study before the start of the workday.
They are held on the first Friday morning of the month and last roughly an hour. Torah texts are also available for use. We hope you can join us (no RSVP required, just come).
You’re invited to
Celebrate Purim with the
Fabulous, Fascinating, and
Feisty Women of CSR!
Sunday, March 8 from 2 to 4 pm
Community Synagogue of Rye

hats and fascinators
are encouraged.
$50 per person

Adult Purim Fest
Wednesday, March 11
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Middle Eastern Dinner & Drinks
$20 /person
RSVP For Dinner: info@comsynrye.org
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

The Bible Players
Improving Jewish Lives (No Charge)
The Bible Players are a Torah Comedy team
based in New York City that are teaching
Jewish Values and sweeping the nation! The
Bible Players use theater and improv to infuse
comedy and laughs into tales from the
Torah and beyond.

COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE OF RYE PRESENTS...
ROARING TWENTIES
PURIM
FEATURING THE BIBLE PLAYERS
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

4:00 pm CJL Classes Begin
4:15 pm CJL Purim Celebration with
The Bible Players
Adults and children are welcome to join this interactive
retelling of the Purim story!
5:00-6:00pm Roaring Twenties
Purim Carnival
Come join your children for a carnival run by our teens!
Dinner and snacks will be available for purchase.

Carnival game tickets may be purchased the day of the
carnival. Questions? Email Yael Farber at
yfarber@comsynrye.org

WHO’S IN?
Poker Night for CSR Men
Host: Rabbi Daniel Gropper 9149676262
When: Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 PM
Where: Community Synagogue of Rye
200 Forest Ave Rye, NY 10580

To RSVP to Poker Night or Women’s Purim events
clergyassistant@comsynrye.org
(914) 967-6262
After the Death of a Sibling: A Spiritual Support Group

Siblings are generally the longest relationships we have in life, yet surviving siblings are often the “forgotten mourners.” Please join us for this special opportunity to share memories, joys, and tribulations of your sibling relationship and what it means to live without him or her in your life through conversation, writing and experiential exercises.

Co-facilitated with Heidi Weiss, LMSW, MHA
5 Wednesdays: February 19, 26, March 4, 11 & 18
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Suggested fee: $225

After the Death of a Child: A Spiritual Support Group

We will create a safe space in which you can mourn and memorialize, create legacy, and walk the mourners’ path with other parents who have lost a child of any cause at any age. All faiths are welcome.

Co-facilitated with Gillian Rittmaster, LCSW
5 Mondays: March 2, 9, 30, April 13 & 27
2:00-3:30 pm
Suggested fee: $225

Fractured Families: A Panel Discussion

Family cut-offs and estrangements are as old as the Hebrew Bible. Join us for this panel discussion comprised of individuals who continue to negotiate their own family fractures.

Monday: March 2
6:00 – 8:00 pm
Suggested fee: $25

If you have some Musar background and are interested in joining an ongoing group, please contact Rabbi Wax to discuss the possibility of joining an existing year-long Musar class.

Wise Aging – age 60+

In this contemplative reflection on aging, we will assess our core values and honor the transitions we are experiencing physically, emotionally, and spiritually as we age. Through text study, discussion, and experiential exercises, we’ll explore purpose, passions, and possibilities. Our text is Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, and Spirit by Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal.

6 Wednesdays: March 4, 18, April 22, May 6, 20, June 3
10:00 – 11:30 am
Location: Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains
Suggested fee: TIC members $120; non-members $150

In Search of Equanimity: Spiritual Practices for Hard Times

How can we live with equanimity and hope in uncertain and fearful times? We will study text, sing songs, journal, listen and take home useful spiritual tools for the journey.

3 Thursdays: March 5, 12, April 2
10:00 – 11:30 am
Suggested fee: $54

The Empty Seat at the Seder Table: A Gathering for All Who are Bereaved

A pre-Passover teaching and conversation about using Passover as a healing modality, with time to share how to negotiate the empty seat at the seder table. For anyone feeling the loss of a loved one at this time of year. Donations to WJCS will be gratefully accepted for this program.

Monday, March 30
7:00-8:30 pm

A Legacy of Values: Writing Your Ethical Will

Pass on the essential truths you have learned in your lifetime! Explore purpose and history of ethical wills, read some classic examples, and begin to write your own.

3 Wednesdays, April 29, May 6 & May 13
2:00 – 3:30 pm
Suggested fee: $54

Holding the Space: Sharing Suicide Resources and Support

Join us to discuss current research and warning signs of suicide and share resources that might benefit both survivors of suicide loss as well as those at risk. There will be ample opportunity to share your experience and ask questions in a safe environment. Some Jewish perspectives on suicide will be included. Professionals welcome.

2 Wednesdays: May 6 & 13
6:30 – 8:30 pm. Suggested fee: $36

Ongoing Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

In these ongoing groups, learn the essential skills of Mindfulness Meditation within a Jewish context and be introduced to other traditional Jewish contemplative practices. No prior meditation experience is required.
Suggested donation: $5 per session. No sessions on holidays or when synagogues are closed.

- Every Monday, 9:30-10:45 am
  Temple Israel Center, White Plains
  280 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains

- Every Thursday, 9:30-10:45 am
  Chapel In the Woods, Congregation Kol Ami,
  252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains

Facilitated by Ruth Rosenblum, LCSW, certified meditation teacher. Newcomers must email: rosenblum@wics.com
CONTRIBUTIONS

CANTOR COOPERMAN’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
The Community Synagogue of Rye Men’s Club
Julie Schuster in memory of Michael Cook
Lauren Goldberg & Michael Foreman in memory of Kenneth Foreman

GOODKIND SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND
Kristina & Jacob Goldstein in honor of the naming of Yael Townes Bennick and in honor of Barbara and Bob Goodkind

GRAYER TEEN INITIATIVE FUND
In honor of Noa Gropper’s bat mitzvah
Michele & Todd Gershwin
Samberg Family
Arnold Handwerger
Wendy & Philip Zeifer
Cynthia MacKay & Arthur Stampleman
Barbara & Joe Latwin
Deborah & Jared Golub
Sarah & Ralph Newitter
Carol & Morton Corwin
Daryl, Mark, Miles & Kira Woolsey

KADIMA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
Men’s Club in memory of Jerry Cohen and Gordon Ches
Lynn, Caren, Craig & Nancy Kabot in memory of Jerry Cohen
Robert & Peter Gottlieb in memory of Martin Bennett and I. Joseph Michaud
Barbara Goodstein & Dennis Wolf in celebration of the birth of Jacob Asher McKenna, grandson of Barbara Goodstein

MICHAEL GINSBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND
Fern Bindelglass in memory of Adrian Ralph Kristeller

RABBI GROPPER’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
Debbie Olchick in appreciation for the Morocco trip and in honor of her cousins Ellen & Howard Deixler
Eva & Edward Beane in honor of the bat mitzvah of Noa Gropper
Sarah & Ralph Newitter in memory of Zora Gropper
Arielle & Jon Jachman in honor of the bat mitzvah of Noa Gropper
Daryl & Mark Woolsey in honor of the bat mitzvah of Noa Gropper
Lauren Goldberg & Michael Foreman in memory of Kenneth Foreman
Alan & Annette Boorstein in memory of Stephen Bloom

REFORM JEWISH COMMITMENT (RJC) FUND
Joan & Ron Cohen in honor of Mildred Weissman’s 100th birthday

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENRICHMENT FUND
Lisa & Todd Kantor in honor of the bat mitzvah of Noa Gropper

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN A JEWISH ENVIRONMENT (SAJE) FUND
Edith Halpern
Caryl & Gilbert Weinstein in memory of Julia Rudner, mother of Caryl Weinstein and Irving Weinstein, father of Gil Weinstein
Walter Schorsch in appreciation for SAJE for providing an interesting and gracious program for older adults
Rhoda & Steven Steinberg in memory of Samuel Steinberg
Elaine Lerner in memory of Barry Lerner

SYNAGOGUE FUND
in honor of Mildred Weissman’s 100th birthday
Elaine Lerner
Erna Kahan
Men’s Club for Men’s Programming

YAHRZEIT FUND
Cindy Valk-Danish & Les Danish in memory of Nathan Danish
Sue Ellen & Peter Goldman in memory of Irene and Melvin Goldman
George, Debbie & Rachel Weltman in memory of Janet Weltman
Edith & Norman Flitt in memory of Beulah Sher
Nancy Lee & Roger Matles in memory of Ann Matles

The Executive Committee donates new mezuzah to match the aesthetic of our building.

The mezuzah represents the Birkat Kohanim—the priestly benediction.

The mezuzah case, which protects the ancient biblical text on parchment, tells a story of the generations, echoing the custom to touch the mezuzah.

To honor this tradition, the indent in this mezuzah case symbolizes the human touch. There are simple indents, which form the Hebrew letter shin.

The Birkat Kohanim Priestly Blessing mezuzah, which gently curves out from the wall, symbolizes this cherished blessing.

Israeli designer—Sari Srulovitch

Fill your home with beautiful new pieces of Judaica!

Contact Brianne Goldstein
Briannegoldstein@gmail.com
(914) 939—3213
Community Synagogue of Rye has a variety of funds which are used to enrich our congregation.

You may wish to make a contribution in honor or in memory of someone or to celebrate a joyous occasion (birth, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, wedding, anniversary). The funds are listed on the right.

I (We) wish to make a special contribution of $ ___________ to the ___________ Fund.

☐ In Honor of ____________________________

Occasion ____________________________

☐ In Memory of ____________________________

Relationship ____________________________

Donor’s Name (s) ____________________________

Donor’s Address ____________________________

Donor’s Phone ____________________________

Donor’s Email ____________________________

Please send an acknowledgement note to:

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law. Please mail and make checks payable to Community Synagogue of Rye.

YOU CAN NOW MAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO CSR ONLINE
To make a donation to the synagogue or any of its fund using a credit card, please go to https://www.comsyny.org/donate.html.

Endowment Funds
David & Iris Sampliner Youth Leadership Development Fund
Etz Ha Dorot Endowment (Special Projects) Fund
Goodkind Scholar-in-Residence Fund
The Obrasky (Elder Transportation to CSR) Fund
Pond & Beyond (Grounds Improvement) Fund
Reform Jewish Commitment (RJC) Fund
Victor & Marjorie Wolder (Annual Adult Education Program) Fund
in memory of Herbert Millman
Victor & Marjorie Wolder Joy of Living (Annual Joyous Community Event) Fund

Restricted Funds
Adult Education (Cecele Fraenkel Memorial) Fund
Beautification Fund
Cantor Cooperman’s Discretionary Fund
Camp/Israel Trip Fund for Teens
Early Childhood Center Enrichment Fund
Grayer Teen Initiative Fund
Hesed (Caring Community) Fund
Israel Action Fund
Kadima Capital Campaign Fund
Kol Nashim (Women’s Programming) Fund
Marilyn Zelman Early Childhood Center Scholarship Fund
Michael Ginsberg Memorial Library Fund
Prayer Book Fund
Rabbi Gropper’s Discretionary Fund
Religious School Enrichment Fund
Religious School Special Education Fund
SAJE (Senior Activities in a Jewish Environment) Fund
Social Action Fund
Steven Harry Klein Membership Fund
Synagogue Fund
Yahrzeit Fund

Learn more about these funds at comsynyre.org/csr-funds